

**Utah Special Education Advisory Panel**  
**Minutes**  
**December 6, 2006**

**Present:** Roz Welch, Melanie Hatch, Michelle Griner, Aubrey Goodell, Pamela Smith, Ami Neff, Teri Beck, Eden Gillespie, Kris Rice, Lorna Larsen, Tericia Leavitt, David Turner, Nan Gray, Rebecca Donovan

**Welcome and Introductions:** Ami Neff thanked everyone attending.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of October 10, 2006 meeting were submitted for approval.

**Motion:** Teri Beck – Move the minutes of the October meeting be approved as submitted.

**Second:** Kris Rice

Motion Passed.

**Topical Organization – Future Meetings:** A brief discussion was held and it was decided that the February 2007 meeting would center on the Deaf/Blind State Plan and the Proposed Rules for Special Education. The April USEAP meeting will focus on transition (all transitions).

**Good News – Special Conditions:** Nan Gray reported that USOE (Utah State Office of Education) had received a letter from Alexa Posny, Director of the Office of Special Education Programs, stating that Utah has submitted documentation that satisfies the requirements of the Special Conditions. Utah is no longer operating under Special Conditions.

**State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report:** Nan reported that USOE's special Education staff is working hard to meet the submission dates for the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report.

**Legislative Update:** Nan reported that USOE is requesting a \$1.7 million building block to address the shortfall in the impact aid for high-cost low incidence special education students.

USOE is also working to change the wording for post retirement employment. The new wording would allow a retiree to be reemployed by the same agency in areas of critical shortage, as determined by the Utah State Office of Education, and not be subject to post-retirement restrictions. The retiree would not earn additional service credit.

The Autism Support Services: Education, Research, and Training (ASSERT) program is a collaborative effort between the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation and the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. Benefits of ASSERT program:

- Local school districts are provided intensive training for education personnel.
- A model training classroom is provided for education professionals through Utah.
- In Washington, Weber and Cache counties, children with autism and their families are provided effective educational and behavioral early intervention.

Utah State University is asking for \$200,000. to keep this program going.

**State Rules Update:** Nan reported that the draft Proposed Special Education Rules are in the process of being prepared for public hearings in February.

In the past, each new edition of the Special Education Rules has come with a color that distinguishes it from other editions of the Rules. This new generation of the Rules will be no exception. However, this time the Utah State Office of Education is asking for the help of the education community, parents and other interested parties to help us choose the new cover color for the Special Education Rules. To that end, USOE has set up a web page to allow people to nominate colors/themes for the Rules. As of the date of this meeting, the proposed list has been narrowed to five choices which may be voted on at the website set up for that purpose. Voting will end soon and the color will not be announced until the public hearings are over and the rules are ready for publication in the Spring.

**Other USOE Updates:** Nan reported that Bruce is in the process of applying for another State Improvement Grant. This would be the second time the grant is extended (grant #3). The new grant will have goals that will tie in with the State Performance Plan.

Nan also reported that the newly formed Speech/Language Pathologist Shortages Committee has been meeting to discuss qualifications for SLPs in the schools.

**Motion:** Lorna Larsen – Move the meeting be adjourned

**Second:** Eden Gillespie

Motion Passed.

**Meeting Adjourned**